

LUCILLE SLEET

DECEMBER 3 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 18), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on Claims submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1164]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1164) for the relief of Lucille Sleet, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass with the following amendments:

Page 1, line 4, strike out from the fifth word on said line down to and including the last word on line 6 of page 2, and insert the following language:

redeem in favor of Lucille Sleet, of Cincinnati, Ohio, certain War Savings stamps, series of 1918, issued to her but later destroyed by fire, such redemption to be in the amount of \$100.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to redeem in favor of Lucille Sleet, of Cincinnati, Ohio, certain War Savings stamps, series of 1918, issued to her but later destroyed by fire.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In 1919 Lucille Sleet, then 10 years old, and her two brothers, invested their savings in War Savings stamps; which were acquired at the post office in Walton, Ky. Upon being advised of the necessity of having said War Savings certificates registered, the mother of these children took claimant to the post office with her certificates as well as those of her two brothers. Claimant presented the three folders to the postmaster with the request that they be registered; a few minutes later he handed them back to her with the advice that they were all properly registered. The certificates were thereupon stored away with other valuable papers in their home. Subsequently, the home was completely destroyed by fire and the father of the children lost his life in said fire. Shortly thereafter a claim was filed for the value of the certificates thus destroyed. Subsequent to the filing of said claim the mother was advised that the certificates of her two sons were of record, and they received payment in due course, but that

the certificates of her daughter, Lucille, were not so registered and payment thereof was declined. The Treasury Department report states, in part, as follows:

In view of the fact that there appears to be an obligation on the part of the Government to reimburse Miss Sleet on account of the loss sustained, due possibly to the delinquency of one of the agents of the Government, the Treasury will interpose no objection to the passage of the bill amended as above outlined.

The bill has been amended accordingly and your committee recommend favorable consideration thereof. Similar bills were introduced in the Seventy-sixth and Seventy-seventh Congresses but no action was taken thereon.

Appended is the report of the Treasury Department, together with the affidavit of claimant's mother.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 30, 1943.

HON. ALLEN J. ELLENDER,
*Chairman, Committee on Claims,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received your letter dated June 5, 1943, enclosing a copy of bill, S. 1164, for the relief of Lucille Sleet, on account of 20 War Savings stamps alleged to have been destroyed by fire, and requesting that you be furnished all papers or copies of the same on file in this Department relating to the claim, together with an opinion as to its merits.

Copies of papers on file in this Department in connection with the case are enclosed, among which are copies of letters dated March 15, 1940, addressed to the Honorable Edward R. Burke, chairman, Committee on Claims, United States Senate, and July 22, 1941, addressed to the Honorable Prentiss M. Brown, chairman, Committee on Claims, United States Senate, in which the position of the Treasury Department was set forth in reference to bills S. 3187 and S. 1620, respectively, previous bills for relief on account of the loss involved in this case.

The evidence submitted in the case tends to show that a War Savings certificate was purchased by Miss Lucille Sleet at the Walton, Ky., post office and presented there for registration, but it does not show that a record of the certificate was made by the postmaster in accordance with the instructions and regulations issued by the Postmaster General.

The Treasury Department objects to the terms of the bill as drafted for the reason that it authorizes and directs payment in the amount of \$100 together with interest thereon at 6 per centum per annum from January 1, 1923, to the date of payment. War Savings certificate stamps did not bear interest but were sold on a discount basis and at maturity had an accrued value of \$5 each. Since the accrued value of the war savings certificate stamps involved was \$100 on January 1, 1923, their maturity date, relief should be restricted to that amount. A further objection to the bill is that it makes a specific appropriation for payment of the amount authorized and would not permit a proper adjustment of the public debt accounts. It is suggested that the bill be revised to provide "that the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized and directed to redeem in favor of Lucille Sleet, of Cincinnati, Ohio, certain War Savings stamps series of 1918, issued to her but later destroyed by fire, such redemption to be in the amount of \$100."

Since without a full description of a War Savings certificate for which relief is sought and to which certain stamps are affixed it is impossible to determine whether payment has been made for the stamps, a bond of indemnity in this case where no description is available will afford the Government no protection. There is therefore, no objection to the omission of all clauses relating to a bond of indemnity.

In view of the fact that there appears to be an obligation on the part of the Government to reimburse Miss Sleet on account of the loss sustained, due possibly to the delinquency of one of the agents of the Government, the Treasury will interpose no objection to the passage of the bill amended as above outlined.

It is understood that in making no objection the Treasury is guided by the evidence presented and its position applies only to the case under consideration and does not bind it to any given policy.

The Department has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

A copy of this letter is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

D. W. BELL,
Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

STATE OF KENTUCKY,
County of Kenton, ss.:

I, Fannie Sleet Glacken, being duly sworn, upon my oath do state:

1. That I am the mother of Lucille Sleet, daughter, and John Harold and Dan Dudley Sleet, sons.

2. That previous to the year 1919, I, together with my husband, and the three children above enumerated, did reside in Walton, Boone County, Ky.

3. That previous to March 1, 1919, my daughter and two sons above named had invested their savings in War Savings stamps in varying amounts, said stamps having been acquired at the postoffice in Walton, Boone County, Ky., from the postmaster, Tilden Dudgeon, who is now deceased.

4. That previous to March 1, 1919, my daughter, Lucille, had accumulated War Savings certificates to the extent of \$100; my sons, Dan Dudley and John Harold in a lesser amount.

5. That I was advised of the necessity for the sake of security of having said War Savings certificates registered at the postoffice in said Walton, Ky. That previous to March 1, 1919, I did personally accompany my daughter, Lucille, then 10 years of age, to said postoffice with her certificates as well as those of her two brothers. That I saw her present the three folders containing the three separate lots of certificates to the said postmaster in person with the request that they be registered; that presently all three of said folders containing said certificates were handed back to my daughter, Lucille, by said postmaster, with the advice that they were all properly registered.

6. That at this time I cannot recall the kind or character of marks or notations appearing thereon, but I do recall that each of the separate lots bore the same sort of designation.

7. That I was not versed in the practices or technique of such things; that I took the three separate folders from my daughter and stored them away with other valuable papers in my home; that so far as I may now recall no other person outside of my daughter and myself saw the said certificates after their registration.

8. That a fire did on March 1, 1919, completely destroy our home with all its contents and that my husband, the father of the children hereinbefore enumerated lost his life in said fire.

9. That approximately the 1st of March 1920 a claim was filed for the value of the certificates thus destroyed. Subsequent to the filing of said claim I was advised that the certificates of John Harold Sleet and Dan Dudley Sleet were of record, and they received payment in due course, but that the certificates of my daughter, Lucille Sleet, were not so registered and payment thereof was declined.

10. That to my certain knowledge, the certificates in question representing the savings of Lucille Sleet, amounted to exactly \$100 and that no part of said claim has ever been paid.

Further deponent saith not.

FANNIE SLEET GLACKEN.

STATE OF KENTUCKY,
County of Kenton, ss.:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public in and for the county and State aforesaid, by Mrs. Fannie Sleet Glacken, personally known to me to be the deponent in this matter.

[SEAL]

ANN WORSTELL,
Notary Public, Kenton County, Ky.

My commission expires June 12, 1938.

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